

**Question for written answer P-004314/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Franco Bonanini (NI)**

Subject: Liberalisation of Internet top level domain names '.wine' and '.vin'

According to press reports, a final decision by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) on release of the top level domain names '.wine' and '.vin' for general use seems imminent. Their liberalisation would make their sale worldwide possible, without any restrictions or conditions being imposed.

Such a decision would mean that Internet domain names containing references to specific EU geographical indications (e.g. 'chianti.wine' or 'champagne.vin') could be freely allocated with no consideration given at all as to whether there is a real connection to the genuine geographical indication and genuine producers in these regions.

Such a decision would, in actual fact, permit improper use of EU designations and would encourage unfair competitive practices and the provision of fraudulent information to consumers, as well as doing irreparable damage to the EU wine growing and producing sector.

What initiatives and measures is the Commission instituting as a matter of urgency with all bodies concerned at international level, as well as in collaboration with the other EU institutions and the governments of the Member States, to ensure ICANN does not adopt said decision, thereby protecting EU geographical indications and the production of quality EU products which would be jeopardised irreparably by a decision of this kind?